Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image reading device comprising:

an image reading unit comprising a plurality of optical reading sensors aligned in a row, the image reading unit outputting an image signal based on an image read by the plurality of optical reading sensors;

a characteristic storage unit that stores the characteristic of the image reading unit in the form of a reference image signal level curve and one of a predetermined coefficient and a threshold level curve, the reference image signal level curve being obtained by correcting an image signal curve outputted by the reading unit when the optical reading sensors read an image of a predetermined white reference member at a factory so that a peak value of the image signal curve matches a predetermined maximum readable range, and the threshold level curve being obtained by multiplying the reference image signal level curve by the predetermined coefficient;

a correction coefficient calculator that <u>produces a corrected image signal level curve by incrementally increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve</u>determines a correction coefficient which provides a part of the present image signal level curve being matched with a part of the reference signal level curve to produce a corrected image signal level curve; and

a correction output unit that produces a binary output signal of the corrected image signal level curve by comparing the corrected image signal level curve with either the threshold level curve stored in the characteristic storage unit or a threshold level curve

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obtained by multiplying the reference image signal level curve by the predetermined coefficient.

2. (Original) The image signal reading device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the correction coefficient calculator comprises:

reading means that reads an image from a white reference surface provided at a reading position to obtain a pre-sent image signal level curve before image data is actually retrieved using the reading unit;

comparing means that compares the present image signal level curve with the reference image signal level curve stored in the characteristic storage unit; and

determining means that determines a correction coefficient required to match at least the portion of the present image signal level curve with the portion of the reference signal level curve.

3. (Original) The image reading device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the correction output unit comprises outputting means that outputs a corrected image signal level curve by multiplying the correction coefficient by the present signal level curve.

4. (Original) The image reading device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of optical image sensors comprise contact image sensors.

5. (Original) An electronic board comprising:

a white board on which an image is drawn;

an image reading unit comprising a plurality of optical reading sensors aligned in a row, the image reading unit outputting an image signal based on the image on the white board read by the plurality of optical reading sensors;

a characteristic storage unit that stores the characteristic of the image reading unit in the form of a reference image signal level curve and one of a predetermined coefficient and a threshold level curve, the reference image signal level curve being obtained by

correcting an image signal curve outputted by the reading unit when the optical reading

sensors reads an image of a predetermined white reference member at a factory so that a peak

value of the image signal curve matches a predetermined maximum readable range, and the

threshold level curve being obtained by multiplying the reference image signal level curve by

the predetermined coefficient;

a correction coefficient calculator that produces a corrected image signal level

curve by incrementally increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image

signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present

image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve~~determines a~~

~~correction coefficient which provides a part of the present image signal level curve being~~

~~matched with a part of the reference signal level curve to produce a corrected image signal~~

~~level curve~~;

a correction output unit that produces a binary output signal of the corrected

image signal level curve by comparing the corrected image signal level curve with either the

threshold level curve stored in the characteristic storage unit or a threshold level curve

obtained by multiplying the reference image signal level curve by the predetermined co-

efficient; and

printing means that prints an image on an image re-cording medium based on

the binary output signal.

6.   (Original) The electronic board as claimed in claim 5, wherein the correction

coefficient calculator comprises:

reading means that reads an image from a white reference surface provided at a

reading position to obtain a present image signal level curve before image data is actually

retrieved using the reading unit;

comparing means that compares the present image signal level curve with the reference image signal level curve stored in the characteristic storage unit; and

determining means that determines a correction coefficient required to match at least the portion of the present image signal level curve with the portion of the reference signal level curve.

7.   (Original) The electronic board as claimed in claim 5, wherein the correction output unit comprises outputting means that outputs a corrected image signal level curve by multiplying the correction coefficient by the present signal level curve.

8.   (Original) The electronic board as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plurality of optical image sensors comprise contact image sensors.

9.   (Previously Presented) The electronic board as claimed in claim 5, wherein the white board comprises:

an endless white sheet on which the image is to be drawn;

a pair of roller members rotatable about their axes for supporting and feeding the endless white sheet, the endless white sheet being mounted on the pair of roller members; and

a drive motor drivingly connected to at least one of the roller members, the image reading unit being positioned in confrontation with one of the roller members.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method for formulating a level of image signal comprising the steps of:

provisionally storing a characteristic of an image reading unit in the form of a reference image signal level curve and one of a predetermined coefficient and a threshold level curve, the reference image signal level curve being obtained by correcting an image signal curve outputted by the reading unit when the reading unit reads an image of a

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predetermined white reference member at a factory so that a peak value of the image signal

curve matches a predetermined maximum readable range, and the threshold level curve being

obtained by multiplying the reference image signal level curve by the predetermined

coefficient;

producing a corrected image signal level curve by incrementally increasing a

correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the

correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of

the reference signal level curve~~determining a correction coefficient providing a part of a~~

~~present image signal level curve being matched with a part of the reference signal level curve~~

~~to produce a corrected image signal level curve~~; and

generating a binary output signal of the corrected image signal level curve by

comparing the corrected image signal level curve with either the threshold level curve stored

in the characteristic storage unit or a threshold level curve obtained by multiplying the

reference image signal level curve by the predetermined coefficient.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the

determining steps comprises the steps of:

reading an image from a white reference surface provided at a reading position

to obtain a present image signal level curve before image data is actually retrieved using the

reading unit;

comparing the present image signal level curve with the reference image signal

level curve stored in the characteristic storage unit; and

determining a correction coefficient required to match at least the portion of

the present image signal level curve with the portion of the reference signal level curve.

12.   (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises outputting a corrected image signal level curve by multiplying the correction coefficient by the present signal level curve.

13.   (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the image reading unit comprises a plurality of optical reading sensors aligned in a row, the image reading unit outputting an image signal based on an image read by the plurality of optical reading sensors.